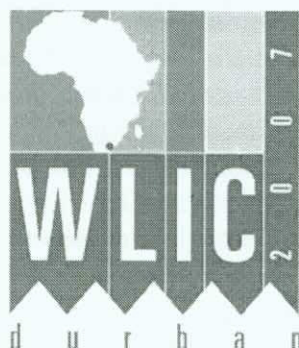


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The factors which influenced the establishment and development of libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa

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The aim of this paper is to explore the most favourable factors which influenced the establishment and development of various kinds of libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is a general review which covers the Span of time from the colonial times to 1960's.

Sub-Saharan Africa consists of 47 countries. These countries could be categorized as, Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa and almost all of them had prevailed under the colonial administration of France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Portugal.

With regard to the establishment and development of libraries, some common influential factors can be seen in these countries according to the governing countries. While the countries under the British government in West Africa called as Anglophone Africa show evidence of British influence, the countries under the French government called as francophone Africa had been influenced by some common facts. All colonies gained independent states between 1950 s and 1970 s.

The introduction of formal education in the colonial countries could be cited as the crucial factor that caused the establishment of libraries. Education systems were inaugurated in these countries by the colonial governments and the missionaries. While the governments aim was to train the personnel needed for the administration of the countries, objective of the missionaries was propagating the religion. A first primary